

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Crawford

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Kingsport Masonic Lodge No. 688 on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those organizations that have reached a milestone in their illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport Masonic Lodge No. 688, officially chartered January 31, 1918, is one such noteworthy organization that has a long-standing record of meritorious public service; and

WHEREAS, the first record of a Masonic Lodge in the Kingsport area was a notice in the *Knoxville Gazette* in 1792, announcing a meeting at a Masonic Lodge at the North Fork of the Holston River; the first Tennessee Lodge chartered in the area was Blair Lodge No. 67, chartered on October 10, 1867; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 1890, Glenwood Lodge No. 541 was chartered in Sullivan County. Though membership rose to thirty-five in 1892, those numbers dwindled to thirteen in 1899, and the charter was arrested on January 30, 1901; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1916, brethren petitioned for the creation of a new Lodge. Though their request was denied because their Lodge would be within ten miles of an existing one, this group of men pressed on, making a new request in November that same year; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1917, a dispensation was granted for Kingsport Lodge U.D. to organize; in 1917, the brethren initiated twenty-five, passed seventeen, raised thirteen, and admitted twenty-five for a total of thirty-eight members by the end of that year; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 1918, a charter was issued to Kingsport Lodge No. 688; their membership for that year was seventy-nine, only to grow as high as 1,235 members; and

WHEREAS, starting in 1943, the brethren of Kingsport Lodge No. 688 began to look for a permanent home for their Lodge, having rented property thus far in their existence. Various lots were purchased in the 1940s, but due to various financial strains, the Lodge had to sell them for profit; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, a committee was established to acquire property for a Masonic Temple, and in July of that year, the present-day temple property was purchased. The Lodge has remained at this location for the past sixty-six years; and

WHEREAS, many Kingsport Masons have distinguished themselves as men of stature and integrity in our great State; and

WHEREAS, Kingsport Masons have further assisted the youth of our State through the inspirational leadership they provide in their community; and

WHEREAS, it is for the noble efforts of the Kingsport Masonic Lodge No. 688 that the members of this legislative body are most thankful; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the Kingsport Masonic Lodge No. 688 on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we wish its members continued success in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.